

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
2 December 2004 (02.12.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/104212 A2

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: C12Q
(21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2003/032887

(22) International Filing Date: 14 October 2003 (14.10.2003)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
60/417,843 11 October 2002 (11.10.2002) US

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(81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU,
AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU,
CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE,
GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR,
KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK,
MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT,
RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR,
TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

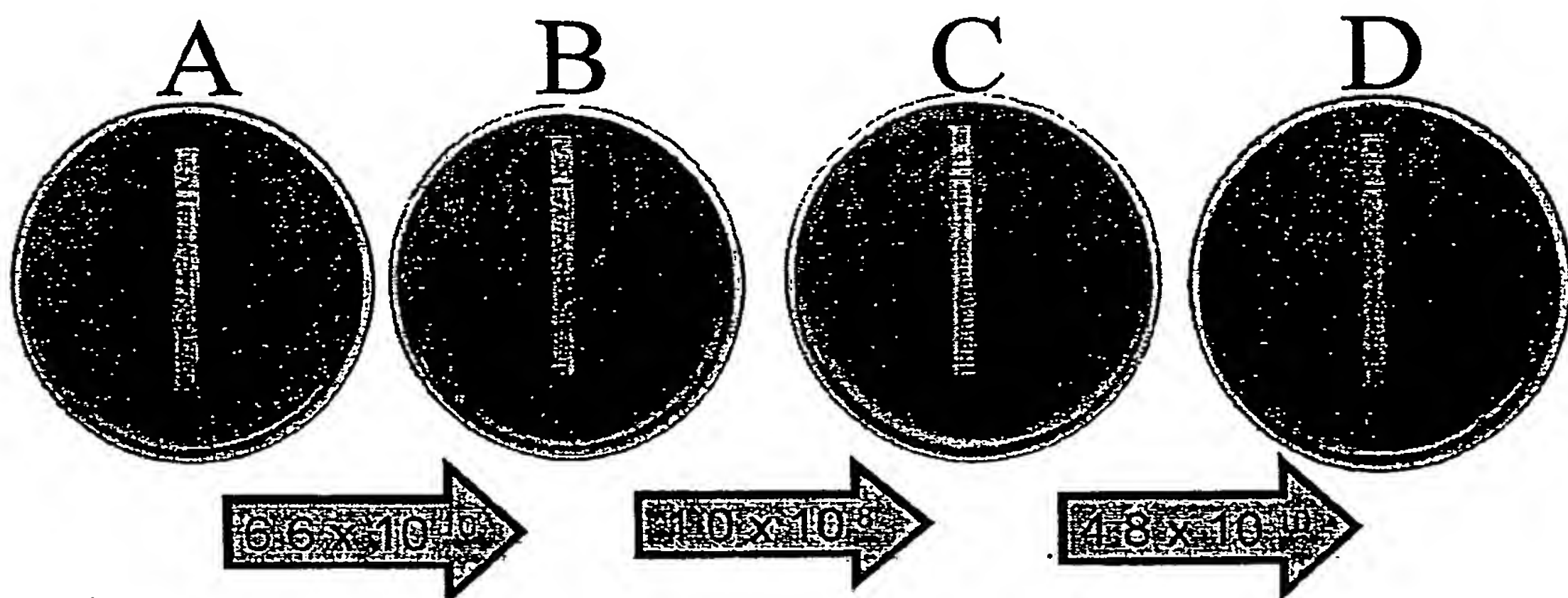
(84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM,
KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW),
Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),
European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE,
ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO,
SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM,
GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— without international search report and to be republished
upon receipt of that report

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: MOLECULAR SIGNATURE AND ASSAY FOR FLUOROQUINOLINE RESISTANCE IN *BACILLUS ANTHRACIS*



(57) Abstract: The preferred therapeutic for human anthrax infections are therapeutics from the fluoroquinolone class, in particular, Ciprofloxacin (CIP). This invention discloses the molecular basis for fluoroquinolone (CEP in particular) action and provides the molecular signatures which form the basis of diagnostic assays. This invention further discloses nucleotide signatures associated with CIP-resistance are useful in diagnostic tests to rapidly identify CIP resistant *B. anthracis* and to infer the level of resistance of these mutant strains. According to this invention, the diagnostic potential of the molecular signatures is illustrated using a primer extension assay. Further, PCR and extension primers which allow the detection of these signatures are disclosed.



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